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The EPA is finally getting around to trying to clean up the Willamette River. Both the Willamette and Columbia rivers have been contaminated for years -- it's nothing new. But now that Willamette is beginning to heal itself, opening up the environment and exposing it to chemicals and pollutants that are currently isolated and contained doesn't make sense. From my perspective, it is a waste of \$1 billion that could be spend in a number of other ways. The EPA's current plan requires too much effort and energy that negatively impacts our local economy and environment. I'd always prefer a less invasive and less expensive plan.

One thing that comes to mind is the regular process by the Army Corps of Engineers, who start with a non-invasive approach and scale up as necessary. This would be a good solution, one that is less costly and focuses on letting natural methods run its course. Since it has worked in the past, it will work again. As an engineer, I'm skeptical about using 12-year-old data. There are too many unknowns. We don't know what will happen in the environment by re-exposing these pollutants. That's what I worry about. Using a process that contradicts recent finding concerns me as well.

Another concern is how much this will cost Portland residents and businesses. We already pay higher taxes than other places in the US. Why should I have an undue burden on me for more taxes? From utilities to carrying the load when other residents lose their job because of a slumped economy, an increase of anything is an additional tax. Turning the riverfront into a long-term construction site would be an economic hit to our metro area. This plan will force more people out of business and shut down what little manufacturing we currently have left. After living here for 40 years, I've seen how Portland competes with so many other ports on the West Coast. It will probably shut those industries down completely. Frankly, this is the wrong time because the nation has not fully recovered from the last economic decline. We simply are not stable enough to maintain that type of economic hit.

Working to improve the environment is one thing, when it is necessary. However, I am left thinking the EPA has its own agenda at this point if it is not willing to give this issue equal consideration consider as other places. There is nothing wrong with seeking input from local residents who have the most to lose. I will always support more information given by local residents because it's our area. It would be me and my neighbors affected by the long-lasting effects of the EPA's proposed cleanup plan. Please look at other options first.

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